

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 /081 W

----- 103884

R 121145Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 1646

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, GW, WB, US, UK, FR, SZ

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MERCY FLIGHTS TO BERLIN

REFS: A) BONN 19653, 23 DECEMBER 1974

B) STATE 002393, 5 JANUARY 1974

1. ALLIED MISSIONS RECEIVED FORMAL SENAT REQUEST
(VERMERK 6440/11) REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL FLIGHTS
TO BERLIN. VERMERK NOTES THREE INSTANCES WHERE SPECIALLY
EQUIPPED MEDIVAC AIRCRAFT RETURNED SERIOUSLY INJURED OR
ILL BERLINERS TO BERLIN. SINCE THESE AIRCRAFT WERE
NON-ALLIED, THEY WERE OBLIGED TO LAND AT SCHOENEFELD.
WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PRECLUDING FURTHER SUCH SCHOENEFELD
FLIGHTS, THE SENAT PROPOSES A MEETING OF THE SENATOR FOR
TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISE, THE ALLIED CARRIERS,
THE GERMAN RED CROSS, AND OTHER SENAT OFFICIALS. WE
HAVE TOLD ALLIES WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MEETING
ITSELF AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE BACC WORKING GROUP ALSO ATTEND AS REPRESENTATIVES
OF ALLIED MISSIONS.

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2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT BERLIN-BASED ALLIED CARRIERS WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDIVAC SUPPORT; FOR EXAMPLE, IN CASE WHERE SPECIAL LIFE-SUSTAINING EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED ABOARD AIRCRAFT. CONSEQUENTLY WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER SENAT REQUEST COULD INVOLVE PERMISSION FOR NON-ALLIED CARRIERS TO OPERATE IN CORRIDORS ON EMERGENCY BASIS. THREE ALLIED EMBASSIES HAVE NOT FAVORED THIS APPROACH (REF A) AND WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCLUSION THAT SUCH FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIED AIR ACCESS RIGHTS (REF B). HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER SOLE ALLIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN AVIATION IMPOSES SPECIAL OBLIGATION ON US TO ATTEMPT TO FIND ALTERNATE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD NOT IMPINGE ON ALLIED RIGHTS, BUT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN VIEW OF SHARP CRITICISM CURRENTLY BEING LEVELED AT ALLIES OVER PERFORMANCE OF IGS. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGESTING TO ALLIES THAT BACC WORKING GROUP SEEK ALLIED CARRIER IN BRITAIN OR FRANCE WHICH CAN UNDERTAKE AIR RESCUE SERVICE TO BERLIN ON SHORT NOTICE. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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